

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF MUSIC

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July 1, 2026

Jason Bolte
Director, School of Music
Montana State University
189 Howard Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Director Bolte:

Thank you for submitting your application for review by the NASM Commission on Accreditation. The Commission, at its June 2026 meetings, took action on the institution's application.

Please find enclosed a Commission Action Report describing this action in detail. This Report contains information of note and, if applicable, any requests for further information from the Commission. Please note the Association's policy regarding *Disclosure and Confidentiality*, a copy of which has been enclosed.

This action is taken based upon a review of Montana State University according to the NASM accreditation standards in effect in June 2026.

As an accredited institutional member of NASM, the institution is reminded of its responsibility to participate in reviews and revisions to the NASM *Handbook*, and to maintain its operations and programs current with NASM standards as these are developed and approved.

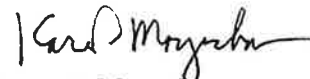
The Commission on Accreditation and the Association appreciate the institution's efforts with regard to its application, and its careful consideration of and attention to NASM accreditation standards and guidelines. Further, the Commission and Association appreciate the work accomplished by the institution on behalf of music and higher education.

Please contact the NASM National Office staff if you have questions or need assistance with regard to this action or any other aspect of the work of the Association.

We offer congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for the continuing success of the institution.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

KPM:jrk
Enclosure

cc: Brock Tessman, President
Montana State University



National Association of Schools of Music

11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21

Reston, Virginia 20190-5248

COMMISSION ACTION REPORT

This document provides the official action of the Commission as indicated in the cover letter of the same date.

July 1, 2026

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
School of Music**

Actions:

Action 1 of 3: Application for renewal of Membership – Response (Now Termed Further Information)

The Commission voted to accept the requested Response, approve the application, and grant renewal of Membership with the degree listing indicated below.

NASM Degree Listing:

Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology.

Bachelor of Music Education.

Master of Music in Music Education.

Bachelor of Musical Arts.

Next Full Review:

2033-2034 Academic Year

Action 2 of 3: Application for Plan Approval – Original

The Commission voted to grant Plan Approval for the following degree:

Bachelor of Musical Arts.

When three transcripts are available for this degree, the institution should submit an application for Final Approval for Listing. Instructions for submitting Final Approval for Listing applications may be found in the NASM documents *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula* and *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NASM Format*, which may be downloaded from the NASM website at <https://nasm.arts-accredit.org> (see “Accreditation,” beneath that “Accreditation Materials,” beneath that “Procedures,” and beneath that “New Curricula”).



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Action 3 of 3: Application for Final Approval for Listing – Original
The Commission voted to grant Final Approval for Listing for the following degree:

Master of Music in Music Education.

Notes:

1. The Commission notes that with the approval of the Bachelor of Musical Arts degree, the institution will retire the Bachelor of Arts in Music degree using an institutionally approved teach-out process (see application for Plan Approval, p. 27). NASM will update its records and the institution's degree and program information found in the NASM Directory List. Should the institution wish to reactivate the Bachelor of Arts in Music degree in the future, an application for Plan Approval will be required. Instructions for submitting Plan Approval applications may be found in the NASM documents *Policies and Procedures for Reviews of New Curricula* and *Instructions for Preparing Curricular Tables in the NASM Format*, which may be downloaded from the NASM website at <https://nasm.arts-accredit.org> (see "Accreditation," beneath that "Accreditation Materials," beneath that "Procedures," and beneath that "New Curricula").
2. Should the institution offer curricular programs which fall under the purview of NASM that are delivered through distance learning means, the institution is asked to note that NASM's standards pertaining to distance learning were amended recently (see NASM *Handbook 2025-26*, Standards for Accreditation III.I.). The institution is asked to review current standards with regard to the delivery of coursework through distance learning means, ensuring that compliance with standards is maintained by the institution. Although the entirety of III.I. should be reviewed, the institution is asked to note in particular that a) all programs of study falling under the purview of NASM delivered entirely or partially away from regular face-to-face interactions must be submitted for review by NASM; and b) institutions must provide, in institutional publications as appropriate, a listing, or designation, or indication of all music programs offered either entirely or partially through distance learning means. Further, the institution must designate in publications whether required courses are offered through distance learning and/or on ground in-person means. The institution is asked to refer to the NASM *Handbook 2025-26*, Standards for Accreditation III.I. Should questions arise, the institution is asked to contact the staff in the National Office.

Commendation:

The institution is commended for its thorough and insightful application for Plan Approval.

Completion of Process:

The acceptance of this Response brings to a close the comprehensive evaluation process that began in 2023. NASM appreciates the institution's extraordinary efforts clearly evident in its application. To assist



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with future planning, the institution may wish to note that its next comprehensive review is scheduled to be conducted during the 2033-2034 academic year.

Karen P. Moynahan
Executive Director

KPM:jrk

NASM *Handbook 2025-26*, Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II

ARTICLE XIII DISCLOSURE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Section 1. NASM provides numerous services that include the publication of policy statements, reports, and surveys. These are available to the public, some for a fee. Upon request, NASM will provide the academic and professional qualifications of the members of its policy and decision-making bodies and its administrative personnel.

Section 2. Upon request, NASM will make publicly available all information about an institution that is published in NASM literature (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article XI., Section 3.). NASM will also indicate whether or not an institution holds or has held accredited Membership.

Section 3. NASM will not make publicly available any information supplied by the institution or by representatives of NASM in the course of the accreditation process. This includes Self-Study Reports, Visitors' Reports, and correspondence. While NASM encourages institutions to make publicly available information about their accredited status and to share accreditation materials with individuals and agencies having legitimate claim to information beyond that available to the general public, the Association regards all accreditation materials as the property of the institution. Therefore, release of these materials is either through the institution or by its permission.

Section 4. Should an institution release information regarding its NASM accreditation status, the content of documents submitted in support of an NASM accreditation application, and/or notice of accreditation actions taken by an NASM Commission, each must be clear, true, and accurate. NASM will monitor an institution's attention to this requirement and those pertaining to "Published Materials and Websites" as a matter of course during accreditation reviews and reviews of required annual reports (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article III., and Standards for Accreditation II.I.1.).

Section 5. NASM will not make publicly available any information provided in third-party comment or an institution's response to third-party comment or any correspondence related to third-party comment (see Rules of Practice and Procedure, Part II, Article IV., Section 1.).

Section 6. If an institution releases information that misrepresents or distorts any action by NASM with respect to any aspect of the accreditation process, or the status of affiliation with NASM, the chief executive officer of the institution and the program director, where applicable, will be notified by the NASM Executive Director and informed that corrective action must be taken. If the misrepresentation or distortion is not promptly corrected, NASM, at its discretion, may release a public statement in such a form and content as it deems necessary to provide the correct information.

The same rule and sequence are applied to individuals and organizations misrepresenting or distorting accreditation actions of NASM.

NASM reserves the right to correct false or misleading information at any time.

Section 7. Certain relationships yield information which legally cannot be disclosed without the consent of the person who provides it—for example, the relationship between physician and patient, between attorney and client, between clergy and penitent, etc. Should such information, or other information that is protected under law by a comparable privilege or safeguard, come into the hands of NASM or an NASM evaluation team, its disclosure to persons other than the immediate recipients is forbidden.